ACTIVIST NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF EQUALITY COLORADO
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EQUALITY COLORADO

MAY 1997

ANTI-MARRIAGE FIGHT: NOT OVER YET

With a week to go in the 1998 legislative session, the General Assembly is on the verge of passing legislation that would deny recognition to same-sex married couples. After two conference committees met to reconcile language passed by the House and Senate, HB 1198 now reads "A marriage is valid in this state if: (a) it is licensed, solemnized, and registered as provided in this part 1; and (b) it is only between one man and one woman." Assuming the measure passes both houses, it will go to Gov. Romer who will have 30 days to decide whether to sign the bill, veto it, or let it go into law without his signature. His veto last year --based on his feeling that the bill was insulting to gays and lesbians -- may have been answered by this year's "compromise" language.

Whatever the language, HB 1198 is an unjust attack on the lives and basic rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Coloradans. Neither political expediency nor personal values can justify the state-sanctioned discrimination that HB 1198 would impose upon same-sex couples.

At question are marriages that may some day be legal in Hawaii -- although a recent vote by Hawaii's legislature will put the question to the voters in 1998, while allowing same-sex couples access to some domestic partner benefits starting in 1997.

ACTION!

▶ Gov. Romer needs to hear from you! He can be contacted at 136 State Capitol, Denver, CO 80203. His phone number is (303) 866-2471, his fax number is (303) 866-2003, and his email address is: <Romer@governor.state.co.us> . Your message should be from the heart.

Remind him that this decision affects the lives of real people. And tell him that the idea of the bill is what's insulting -- not its location in the statutes.

Hate Crimes Bill ... Almost

Once again, the bill which would add sexual orientation, age, and disability to Colorado's Ethnic Intimidation statute got a little farther this year. But in the end, SB 100 came up short. Still, the successes this year were historic:

- For the first time ever, a pro-gay bill was heard on -- and passed -- the floor of one of the chambers, in this case the Senate. The final Senate vote was 19-16.
- Following the Senate victory, the bill passed the House Judiciary Committee 9-3.

However, in the conservative Appropriations Committee, a party line 7-3 vote killed SB 100. The fiscal note on the bill was quite small, so it's doubtful that the "No" vote was about lack of funds.

ACTION!

▶ Clearly the education of Colorado's leaders must increase. Build long-term relationships with your legislators so that the education can happen. It's also *always* imperative to report hate crimes -- even if they won't be prosecuted as such. The Anti-Violence Project hotline is 303-852-5094.

Rainbow Youth Day

May 31 is Rainbow Youth Day, presented by Youth Services at the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Community Services Center of Colorado. The day will include:

- Noon to 1:00 p.m. Youth Rally on the West Steps of the State Capitol
- 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.: Picnic and volleyball at Cheesman Park
- 7:00 p.m. to midnight: The 4th annual Queer Prom at the Tivoli Center
- 10:30 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. Afterprom party at MCC of the Rockies

All are welcome! All events are in Denver.

ACTION!

▶ If you want more information, call Youth Services at (303) 831-6268, x14.

Oprah needs your support

Oprah Winfrey has received an overwhelming amount of letters, calls, and email criticizing her for appearing on the history making coming-out *Ellen* episode. She also featured Ellen DeGeneres on the April 30 episode of *Oprah*. Please let Oprah know how much you appreciate her history of strong support for the LGBT community.

ACTION! Contact: Oprah Winfrey, Harpo Studios, 110 N. Carpenter Road, Chicago, IL 60607-2146, fax: 312-633-1976. Email Oprah@aol.com.

GLAAD

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It's a...Nice Day for a...June Wedding

Planning is well under way for the 1997 "June Wedding," sponsored by the Marriage Rights Project of Equality Colorado. The event will be **Saturday, June 28** at the Park Hill Campus of the University of Denver beginning at 1:30 p.m. DU's LGBA is cosponsoring the event, which will be catered by Lifestyles Unlimited Catering.

ACTION! Whether you're looking to say those vows or would like to take the opportunity to show your support for equal marriage rights and our families, come to the "June Wedding." Tickets are available for guests by calling Equality Colorado at (303) 839-5540 and for couples at any of the following locations:

- **Denver** -- Category 6 and the Book Garden bookstores
- **Boulder** -- Word Is Out • **Ft. Collins** -- A Quiet Corner
- **Colorado Springs** -- Ground Zero
- **Grand Junction** -- Crystal Books & Gifts

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Referencing Queers

Are you interested in queer history, literature, memorabilia, etc? So are a lot of other people in the state. The question is How do we share the resources that are currently available to people? Equality Colorado's Public Education and Action Committee (PEAC) will be having a brainstorming meeting on uniting librarians, archivists and activists for educational projects. Possible projects include coming up with a comprehensive resource list of archives, libraries, and museum items of interest to the LGBT community; providing resources to rural communities on LGBT issues; or doing a history of queer activism/community in Colorado.

ACTION! Let us know if you're interested in working on PEAC's next project. The first meeting will be **Thursday, May 29** at 7:00 at the Equality Colorado office. Call (303) 839-5540 or email ecjonathan@aol.com for details.

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News and updates

SI loses dough: The largest advertiser in *Sports Illustrated's Golf Plus* supplement has suspended $1.5 million in advertising after the mag published an article detailing the lesbian party scene at the Dinah Shore golf tournament. The chairman of Titleist said that the article was "just symptomatic of a condescending mindset toward women in golf in general."

CALENDAR

May 1997

Voices of Faith Same-sex marriage workshop • Thursday, May 8, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia, Denver. Clergy and laity who are interested in a positive dialogue about same-sex relationships are welcome. $10 fee -- call (303) 839-5540 for more.

Biblical Workshop • Saturday, May 10, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, We'll examine the 6 scriptural references to same-sex behavior in light of their historic context. Free will offering will be taken. Call Laurene at (303) 839-5540 for information.

Second Mondays • May 12, 7:00 p.m., Family of Christ Presbyterian Church, 2410 35th Ave., Greeley. Weld County activists will meet to talk about organizing in the Greeley area. Call GGLBA at (970)351-1484 .

Wine Tasting •Wednesday, May 14, 6:00 p.m., The Grand, 538 E. 17th Ave., Denver. Fundraiser to benefit Equality Colorado's Anti-Violence Project. Call AVP at (303) 839-5540 for more.

June 1997

Durango Picnic • Saturday, June 21. For more information, call the GLAD line at (970) 247-7778.

Grand Junction Picnic • Sunday, June 22. For more information, call Out West/Western Equality at (970) 242-8949.

Interfaith Worship Service • Wednesday, June 25, 7:30 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1600 Grant St., Denver. For more information, contact Voices of Faith at (303) 839-5540.

Pride Day at Elitch Gardens • Thursday, June 26. Buy your tickets through Equality Colorado! Call (303) 839-5540. Tickets will be around $20 each. Also, mark August 21 for Equality's own Pride Day at Elitch Gardens.

June Wedding • Saturday, June 28, 1:30 p.m., Whatley Chapel, University of Denver Park Hill campus • 19th & Oneida, Denver. Join same-sex couples in a public declaration of their commitment & love. Call (303) 839-5540 for more information.

Pridefest • Sunday, June 29. March begins in Denver's Cheesman Park with a festival in Civic Center Park. Join Equality Colorado's first-ever float!

Longmont school stops book discussion: Teachers at Longmont's Heritage Middle School were recently taken aback when the school's administrators removed the book *Tommy Stands Alone* from a class of sixth-grade students who were reading it as a project. The class had read other books by the author, Gloria Velasquez, but this one was about a young latino boy's struggles with his sexuality. When a parent complained about the subject matter, the principal discontinued the class's work on the book. The administration also told the author, who was scheduled to speak at the school, that she could not speak about the book, or homosexuality, at all. She said that she would instead speak on censorship.
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